



November 2018

Dear Parent,

The field excursion to the Environmental Learning Center (ELC) is a high point in the school year for third grade students. They learn about nature by exploring the Indian River Lagoon ecosystem. Hands-on learning is emphasized, and activities take place outside. The goal is to provide a positive, outdoor experience that promotes awareness and inspires interest in the environment. Your child's adventure will be on

Your child should:

- Eat a good breakfast so s/he has plenty of energy
- Wear closed-toe and closed heel shoes, and clothing that can get wet and dirty. **Water shoes, sandals, and Crocs are not acceptable.** Everyone's shoes and socks will get wet when we do our pond study.
- Dress appropriately for the weather, especially on cold or rainy days. We come inside during storms, but stay out in light rain.
- Apply sunscreen and bug repellent to your child before the excursion.

We emphasize conservation and stewardship. This includes the Triple R philosophy that encourages all to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. We discuss that 1) leftover food could have been **Reduced** by remaining at home, 2) sturdy containers can be rinsed and **Reused**, and 3) certain materials can be **Recycled**.

Please help by sending your child with a lunch that produces minimal waste. You can do this by 1) putting food and drinks in plastic containers that can be washed and reused; 2) including foods that are packaged naturally such as hard-boiled eggs, bananas or apples; and 3) not giving your child prepackaged meals (**which have a lot of packaging**).

Thank you for your help in this wonderful learning adventure! We encourage you to come back to the ELC with your child and let him/her be your nature guide ☺. The first Saturday of every month is free.

Sincerely,

The ELC Education Team